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## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Lori A. Crouch, Public Relations Manager

COPIES TO: City Clerk, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Council Interests

DATE: February 5, 2016

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I hope you all had a nice week. In today's memo you will find information on several Council Interest items and an update on the Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center and the launch of the new Norfolk Alert system.

**Northside Bus Stop** – HRT and Public Works analyzed the stop and agreed to eliminate the stop in front of the school. The determination was based on the presence of other bus stops nearby.

**Tidewater Drive Underpass** - There are three locations on Tidewater Drive with damaged fencing. General Services has repaired the section between Gilpin Avenue and Granby overpass. Public Works is working with a contractor to repair the fencing at Granby Street over Tidewater Drive and 1<sup>st</sup> View Street over Tidewater Drive.

**Pretty Lake Bridge Tree Replacement** – Recreation, Parks and Open Space staff is following up with Norfolk Police to see if an accident report was filed so the City can seek damages for the value of the trees and other damage to city property. Staff is currently seeking to replace the Caliper trees which at the time of the accident were approximately 2 inches in diameter. Parks and Forestry plan to plant new, similar sized Caliper trees by March.

**Landscaping in Median Gateways** - Staff is currently evaluating the gateway medians to determine the appropriate landscaping options. This includes beautification while addressing any potential safety hazards. Staff plans to complete landscaping by March.

**Number of Rape Cases Closed** – Norfolk Police researched rape case data (rape, forcible sodomy and object sexual penetration). 126 incidents were reported in 2015. In 17 cases the offender has not been identified. The remaining investigations, 86.5%, the offender was identified and either arrested or a circumstance takes place out of police control; for example, the victim drops the charges and the case closed.

According to the most recent statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the national average clearance rate for these cases is 38.5%.

**Aggravated Domestic Assaults Involving Military Personnel** - Norfolk Police researched the number of military personnel involved in Domestic Aggravated Assaults. In 2015, there was a total of 25 incidents in which 27 military personnel were involved as either a victim (12) or suspect (15). Two incidents involved both a victim and suspect who were service members. The 25 incidents account for 21% of the total 120 Domestic Aggravated Assaults that were reported in the 2015 year end stats.

According to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), all domestic assaults, simple or aggravated, must be reported to the service member's command and tracked. They have monitored the number of domestic assaults among service members for several years and reported no significant increase in domestic aggravated assaults when service members return from deployment.

NCIS plays an active role in the 'Return/Reunion Program' which involves proactive training relating to domestic violence prior to the service members returning home.

**Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center** – Over the years, the Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center has worked to improve shelter outcomes and place animals into loving, forever families. Since 2010, the shelter posted steady improvements in animal adoptions and fewer euthanasia incidents. Cat adoptions saw the largest gains from a low of 279 in 2007 to more than 1,000 adoptions every year since 2012. 2015 marks the first time the number of adoptions surpassed the number of euthanasia incidents. The shelter took in 5,229 animals (cats, dogs, small animals, poultry and livestock) in 2015. Of that number 2,201 were adopted and 1,822 were euthanatized. The outcomes for the remaining animals include: returned to owner (913), transition to another shelter (100), died (38) and remaining in shelter care (155). The shelter will continue to work towards 100% placement of all adoptable animals.

**Norfolk Alert** – Don't miss important information about the next severe storm, flood or event that impacts your neighborhood. Norfolk Alert is an enhanced alert system that allows subscribers to customize their account. This flexibility allows subscribers the option to have important public safety and preparedness information sent directly to an email, voicemail, text message or all. Encourage your constituents to sign up at [www.norfolk.gov](http://www.norfolk.gov).